



California Department of Fish and Game

Deer Management Program

2011 Deer Zone Information



Wildlife Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95811

General Deer Hunting Information For
ZONE X-4
and
Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-7
(No Additional Hunts Scheduled)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone X-4 located in portions of Lassen and Shasta counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery season (A-7; Zone X-4 Archery Hunt), Zone X-4 general season and any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the following Department office(s):

Northern Region Office (Region 1), 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001 (530-225-2300)
encompassing Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties.

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/current/mammalregs.asp>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

Also remember you must obtain, and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced.

OBTAINING DEER TAGS

NEW for 2011 - Automated License Data System (ALDS)

Beginning in late 2010, the Department began implementation of the new Automated License Data System (ALDS). Under this computer data system, all licenses, stamps and tags are applied for, and issued through online Point-of-Sale terminals (IPOS) located at various Department license offices, over 1,400 license agents statewide or online at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/>. Under ALDS much less paperwork is required to apply for, and receive tags. In addition, licenses, tags and entry into the Big Game Drawing can all be accomplished with one trip to a license agent. Once your personal information is entered and stored in the database, the database controls and tracks what you have applied for, or been issued, as well as preference points.

Other than the way you apply for and receive licenses and tags, the primary difference you will notice is in the form that the license or tag comes. Instead of the old style license or postcard type deer tag, they

will all come out of the IPOS terminal in the form of a long receipt. If successful at harvesting a deer, filling out the tag and report card portion, validation and report card return requirements remain unchanged. For more specific information on ALDS, application procedures and zone/hunt information, check out the 2011 California Big Game Hunting Digest available by May at most Department offices and license agents or online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/digest/>

For deer tag distribution purposes, zones and hunts are classified based upon the date in which the zone or hunt tag quota is filled in the prior year. The three tag categories include:

- 1) **"Premium"** zone/hunt tags are only issued through the Big Game Drawing using a First-Deer Tag Drawing Application, except that junior hunters may use their Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application to apply for Apprentice (J) Hunts. Hunters will lose all accumulated deer preference points if drawn for their first choice in the Big Game Drawing.;
- 2) **"Restricted"** zone/hunt tags are available upon application with a First-Deer Tag, or a Second-Deer Tag after August 1.; and
- 3) **"Un-Restricted"** zone/hunt tags are available at any time using either a First- or Second-Deer Tag.

For Zone X-4 and associated hunts within the zone, the tag categories are as follows:

- 1) **Premium** Deer Hunts – **X4 and A7**
- 2) **Restricted** Deer Hunts – None
- 3) **Un-Restricted** Deer Hunts – None

General Season Tags (Zone X-4): The 2011 deer hunting regulations specific to Zone X-4 and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer during the general season (rifle) in Zone X-4, a hunter must possess a Zone X-4 tag. This tag is valid in Zone X-4, but **ONLY** during the prescribed general season. Zone X-4 tags **MAY NOT** be used to hunt deer during the Hunt A-7 archery season, even with archery equipment.

Archery Season Tags (Hunt A-7): To hunt deer during the archery season in Zone X-4, hunters must possess an Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-7 tag. This tag is only valid during the Hunt A-7 archery season and **MAY NOT** be used to hunt deer during the general zone season, even with archery equipment. Additionally, Archery Only Tags (AO Tags) are **NOT** valid in any X zone or archery hunt within an X zone.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone X-4 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section near the end of this sheet. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and apply by the **June 2, 2011 deadline**. Information regarding application procedures and restrictions, ALDS, zone and hunt seasons, prior year drawing and hunt statistics are contained in the 2011 Big Game Hunting Digest available at most Department offices, license agents and online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/digest/>

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone X-4 contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within Zone X-4 are administered by the Lassen and Shasta-Trinity National Forests (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

USFS Offices:

Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130 (530-257-2151)
Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA 96002 (530-226-2500)

BLM Offices:

Eagle Lake Field Office, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130 (530-257-0456)
Redding Field Office, 355 Hemsted Drive, Redding, California 96002 (530-224-2100)

In Zone X-4 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more

information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/zonemapsinfo.html>

The most comprehensive map of the area is the Lassen National Forest map. USFS maps are available locally at most USFS offices; by contacting the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737); or ordered by phone (406-329-3024), fax (406-329-3030), mail at USDA Forest Service, National Forest Store, P.O. Box 8268, Missoula, MT 59807, or on-line at <http://www.nationalforeststore.com/>.

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. However, because Zone X-4 covers such a large area, several maps are needed to depict it entirely. BLM surface management maps for Zone X-4 include the Burney, Eagle Lake, McArthur, and Susanville maps. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

There are extensive tracts of public lands with excellent access in Zone X-4. Primary roadways in Zone X-4 are State Highway 139 (eastern X-4), State Highway 44 (southwestern X-4), and State Highway 299 (northwestern X-4). Many County, USFS and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing access to public lands.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone X-4 covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of X-4. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

CAMPING

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone X-4. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water and showers. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas. A Reminder: private timber company land is open to public hunting without permission; however, it is closed to camping at all times.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone X-4 is considered stable to slightly declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone X-4 is primarily the Rocky Mountain mule deer, however some Columbian black-tailed deer occur in the western portion of the zone. Deer in Zone X-4 are considered migratory. Deer in this area generally move to higher elevations in the southern half of Zone X-4 in late spring and remain there until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line in a northwesterly direction. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone X-4 ranging from low sage, sagebrush, bitterbrush, montane chaparral, aspen, and juniper to hardwood-conifer habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Generally, the best hunting is near stands of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, or tall sagebrush. Early in the season, the best hunting areas for mule deer are Crater Lake, Eagle Lake, Antelope Peak, and Harvey Mountains and for black-tailed deer, Upper Hat Creek Rim and Butte Creek Rim. In mid-season, try Ladder Butte, Negro Camp Mountain, and Black's Ridge. Deer can be found throughout the summer range, so don't just concentrate on these sites. Later in the season good hunting areas include Lower Hat Creek Rim, Coble Mountain, Bald Mountain and Little Valley.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/docs/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2011, there are no additional deer hunts scheduled in Zone X-4.

2011 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

- (b) X-Zone Hunts.
 - (5) Zone X-4.

(A) Area: In those portions of Lassen and Shasta counties within a line beginning at the junction of Highways 89 and 44 at Old Station; north on Highway 89 to the intersection with the Pit River at Lake Britton; east and south on the Pit River to Horse Creek; southeast on Horse Creek to the Burlington Northern Railroad; southwest on the Burlington Northern Railroad to the Little Valley Road (Lassen County 404); south on the Little Valley Road to U.S. Forest Service Designated Through Route 22; south and east on U.S. Forest Service Designated Through Route 22 to Lassen County 519 near Gooch Mountain; east on Lassen County 519 to Cleghorn Road (Lassen County 521) near Coulthurst Flat; east on Cleghorn Road to Highway 139; south on Highway 139 to its crossing of Willow Creek in the Willow Creek Valley; south (downstream) on Willow Creek to its crossing of Conservation Center Road (Lassen County A-27); west on Conservation Center Road to Highway 36; northwest on Highway 36 to the intersection with Highway 44; north and west on Highway 44 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone X-4 shall open on the first Saturday in October and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 355.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

(6) A-7 (Zone X-4 Archery Hunt).

(A) Area: As described in subsection 360(b)(5)(A).

(B) Season: The archery season for hunt A-7 (Zone X-4 Archery Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 135.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****